

### **Amendments to the Claims**

Claim 1 (Currently amended):        A method of nutritional supplementation of animals, comprising:

feeding to an animal a small but nutritional supplementation effective amount of a complex of an essential trace element and a dicarboxylic alpha amino acid ~~containing~~having one ion of the trace element for each molecule of the dicarboxylic alpha amino acid, with the molecule of the complex having a net zero charge; said essential trace element being selected from the group consisting of zinc, copper, manganese, iron, cobalt, nickel, vanadium, and molybdenum.

Claim 2 (Original):    The method of claim 1 wherein the animal is a domesticated livestock or poultry animal.